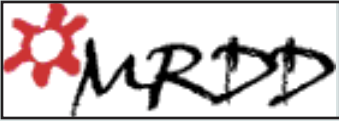


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## Cover Story:

"Take me out to the ball game"

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Publisher/Editor:  
Paul Iden, Planning and  
Development Coordinator

# Bulletin Board

Mahoning County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

## PLAY BALL!



You just know it is going to be a good day when the clouds break into sunshine, the dew is still on the grass and the baseball fields are ready as the players arrive to PLAY BALL. There is just a feel in the air that only comes when something truly special is about to happen. Perhaps no one will ever win an award for most valuable player or offered a contract to join the big leagues, but the quality of the competition is not too important and really not emphasized. What matters is the smiles on the faces of the competitors as they enjoy the day together in friendly sport. Approximately 275 individuals from Bev MASCO, Gateways to Better Living, Meshel MASCO, Turning Point Residential and The Centre @ Javit Court all participated in the second annual Adult



Services Baseball Game at the Poland Community Baseball Fields. The teams enjoyed each others company, ate pizza and chips and vowed to get together next year in this fall classic event. Being a Special Olympics junkie, this writer appreciates the thrill of victory even if you are not the first to cross the finish line. The act of competition itself can be victory. Observing the spirit of sportsmanship in its truest form is what this day was all about. Perhaps professional athletes should take lessons from these superstars.

**A short slide show of the softball game can be viewed at [www.mahoningmrdd.org](http://www.mahoningmrdd.org).**

## Transportation Department

Growing up in Beloit, I was told that you need the right tool to do the job right. Don't use a wrench for a hammer. The transportation department now has the right tool with the purchase of a 2007 Ford F250 Crew Cab 3/4 ton pickup truck. The vehicle, purchased through the state of Ohio, will be used for accident investigations, snow removal, spreading salt, responding to breakdowns, parts pickup and routine errands from the bus compound. The truck will be dressed up with our logo and is ready for service in the Department. With winter weather quickly approaching, this snow machine will come in very handy. Better keep a close watch on the keys!



## Leonard Kirtz School

*"One of the greatest moments of my life"*



*Stacy and Penny*

What happens when you combine a good horse story, a child in need of help and a caring soul who is willing to go the extra mile to make someone's dreams come true. A horse tale that is worthy of the "Readers Digest." Stacy Cappitte, a one on one assistant for a student at LKS, learned about Rachel, a five year old little girl diagnosed with Leukemia whose wish was to ride a horse. Stacy, a recent fifth place finisher in the prestigious Quarter horse Congress in Columbus, has a horse named Penny. Do you see a posse forming? After getting the giddy up from the girl's parents, Stacy contacted Schneider Saddlery in Chargin Falls who ponied up a new outfit worth \$1000 for any fashionably dressed five year old rider. Unbeknownst to Rachel, Stacy entered the child in a horse show at Buckeye Farms in Canfield on October 7. Rachel met Stacy at sun up at the coral (well, 7:00 A.M.) for what the young equestrian assumed was a riding lesson. She donned her new duds and competed in the lead line class. Rachel won a Blue Ribbon for her efforts in the saddle of Penny and being led by Stacy (all competitors won the Blue Ribbon in this event}. "It's not about the ribbons" explained Stacy, but "seeing that little girl smile, that's what it was all about." Thanks to Stacy, Rachel has a memory to cherish and a new dream to pursue, owning a horse of her own.

## Community Services



The newest member of the Community Services family is very busy getting acquainted with her new world. Kelsie Rose Rudolph, the daughter of Julie and Aaron, was born on September 4th. She arrived at a healthy 6 pounds, 11 ounces and 19 inches long. Julie reports that she is a "good baby". Showing her mother's aptitude for service coordination, young Kelsie has already forged a good working relationship with the family dog (the dog was unavailable for comment). Julie is anticipating a return to her duties at the Department around Thanksgiving. Father and mother are doing well despite the lack of sleep that often accompanies a newborn. We wish the entire Rudolph family the best as they welcome a new member to their family. Congratulations Julie and Aaron.



## The Centre @ Javit Court

Gathering together to celebrate over eight decades of life on earth with family and friends, eat ice cream and cake with punch for eighty guests and listen to a



personal concert by an accomplished guitarist were all elements of a birthday party for Mary Gaines at The Centre @ Javit Court. Mary recently celebrated her 81st birthday with a one of a kind birthday bash featuring her brother

singing and playing old favorites on his guitar. With family, house mates and the staff and consumers from the The Centre gathered near to assist with the celebration a foot stomping good time was had by all. Coming from a family of 16 siblings, Mary is used to large crowds at birthday parties.



## Bev MASCO Library Night, Sharing Six Years of Fun ...

Where can you go to hear Native Indian songs and learn about their cultures, be amazed by magicians, inspired with patriotic music, thrilled by animal performers and impressed by the courage of fellow Americans? All this, and much more, happens on a monthly basis at Library Night at Bev MASCO. Library Night enters into its seventh year of providing educational, entertaining and inspiring respite from the work-a-day world by engaging over 14,000 consumers, caregivers, family and friends at the Boardman shop.

*A Family Affair:* Harvey, Kathy and Paul Farbman have invested countless hours of their own time to provide a meaningful night of fun and education to the multitude of people that attend the event each month. According to Richard Ranshaw, Director of Bev MASCO, Harvey's son Paul has "practically grown up creating good will for our population." Young Mr. Farbman has been performing at monthly Library Nights since he was five years old. Currently he actively participates in each show by assisting with planning, writing skits, performing, singing and dancing. *(Continued on page four)*

## Meshel MASCO

Demonstrating a crafty side, the consumers at Meshel recently participated in a class at Pat Catan's in Boardman. The class made memory boxes to take home to store treasures of photos or other keepsakes. Utilizing stencils, paints and stickers



the consumers with the assistance of transportation, Meshel and Pat Catan's staff created personalized projects based on individual tastes and interests

Pat Catan's donated all the material for the class and provided an expert craft teacher to participate in the program at the Boardman store. Taking habilitation programs "on the road" helps to educate our individuals about community activities but also educates the general public about our programs and services.





(continued from page three) Paul truly enjoys working with the consumers and has been adopted as a little brother by many in the community. Working tirelessly for the benefit of others, the Farbman family receives no pay for the extra work but attribute their dedicated efforts to the Hebrew concept of mitzvah or doing good things for others. Paul demonstrates all the characteristics of a true Broadway performer by taking cues, filling in at the last moment for sick performers, working the audience to ensure everyone is having a grand time and always thinking about what is best for the performance. Following the tiring productions, Paul often has to go home and spend several hours with school work in order to maintain his high academic standards. Harvey's father Sam Farbman also participated in the monthly productions often assisting with distributing programs, acting in skits and doing anything that was needed to help in the show. Shortly before his death in 2005, Mr. Farbman was transported via ambulette to a surprise birthday party during the Library Night performance. Harvey's wife Kathy spends countless hours researching performing acts, making contact with performers, purchasing supplies for shows and transporting equipment and materials for the evening show. After the show is setup, Kathy assists with sound and also performs by

reading stories or participating in the zany antics that make Library Night fun for everyone in the audience. Paul, Kathy, Harvey and his father have made Library Night a special evening filled with memories of laughter, songs that warm the heart and culture that spurs the imagination.

*The Show Must Go On:* With 72 Library Night Shows under their belt, many acts have come through the doors of the Dominic Perry Memorial Library at Bev. Some of the memorable performers include astronauts from Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Irish Step Dancers, The Mahoning County Sheriff's Department, Civil War Reenactors, The Mahoning County Historical Society, Police Canine Units, Scuba Divers from the Police Department, Demonstrations of Indian Artifacts and traditional songs, Rob "The Animal Guy" from Cleveland, Barnyard Buddies from the County Extension Unit, bagpipers, tributes to Special Olympic sports, local media personalities and many others. Singers, dancers and animal acts have entertained the crowd as crocodiles, exotic birds, sheep, hawks, dogs, pigs, rabbits and eagles have made their way to the workshop. Rick Blackson and Mary Jo Maluso, who have performed with the Osmond's and several other major artists have provided memorable nights of entertainment. Musicians have performed a variety of styles of music including Jazz, Country and Patriotic tunes. The Farbman's strive to provide entertainment, education and enjoyment with each production.



*Spreading the Word:* With the goal to "try to make people laugh" the Farbman's spread good will to the community by providing an entertaining evening but also spreading the word about program activities as many performers are impressed by the scope of the MCBMRDD programs and spread the word to others about our facilities.

Prior to the events of September 11th, Harvey was negotiating with First Lady Laura Bush for an appearance at the monthly event to promote President's Wives. The performance was video taped and sent to the White House where it was viewed by the First Lady and she sent a letter back thanking the Farbman's for the tape and complimenting the evening program.

Although Harvey, Kathy and Paul are not paid for their time, effort or diligence, the benefits of Library Night are far reaching. Giving back to the community by providing entertainment and education helps to shed a good light on the work done by MCBMRDD. The Farbman's would like to thank all those who come out to spend the second Thursday of each month with them and all the entertainers that have performed over the years.





# Staff profile: Focus on Excellence

## "You deserve a medal"

The Oprah Winfrey Show hits national television, a major nuclear accident at the Soviet Union's Chernobyl power station alarms the world and the cost of a first-class stamp: was \$0.22. What do all these things have in common? 1986. Anyone who has worked in this field for any length of time has heard the cliché, "You deserve a medal." It takes a special person to do this work and a dedication to helping people with disabilities to do it so well for so long. We would like to recognize the individuals who have reached a milestone of 20 years of service with MCBMRDD in 2006



Rebecca Borman	09/02/86	Habilitation Coordinator	Centre @ Javit
Christine Bury	09/15/86	Workshop Specialist	Meshele
Jo Ellen Corll	09/03/86	Driver (12 mo/8 hr)	Transportation
Kay Flauto	09/02/86	Lang. Development Specialist	LKS
Sue Hart	07/21/86	SSA	Javit
Joan Maro	09/15/86	Workshop Specialist	Centre @ Javit
Joseph Polito	04/14/86	Transportation Aide	Transportation
Janis Regula	04/14/86	Driver (12 mo/8 hr)	Transportation
David Scheetz	09/02/86	Instructor Assistant	LKS
Marie Standohar	01/21/86	Instructor	LKS

*\*The above dates are based on anniversary of hiring and do not reflect extended time off due to any circumstances (See Editor's note on page six)*

## Bits and pieces

Recently I was given two very large boxes of photographs that held a time capsule of information about the MCBMRDD. I have managed to review most of the photos. It is very addictive to take a step back in time and look at some of the events that have been captured over the past three decades. It seems we have all gotten older. Some of us got heavier and some of us have less hair than we did when these photos were taken. The



picture to the right was dated September of 1991. To kickoff the Levy effort, Bill Parisi, and Frank Perrotta formed a band to perform at the levy rally at LKS. According to Bill, the band "sounded pretty good". Maybe its time for a reunion tour as we gear up for another levy campaign in May of 2007.

## What's going on

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month  
October 27 Evening Activity at Meshel  
October 29 Daylight Savings Time Ends  
November 7 Election Day  
November 9 Library Night at Bev 7:00  
November 10 Veterans' Day No Programming at MCBMRDD facilities  
November 13 MCBMRDD Board Meeting 6:00 at The Centre @ Javit Court  
November 21 Conference night at LKS 3:30 to 9:30  
November 23,24 Thanksgiving Holiday

## Who am I ?

Last month: Heather Halloran

The following interview was conducted with an MCBMRDD employee. Who is it?  
Submit your guess to [piden@zoominternet.net](mailto:piden@zoominternet.net)

1. Where were you born? *Youngstown, Ohio*
2. What are your hobbies and interests? *Shopping, Fashion, Music*
3. What is your favorite movies? *The Wizard of Oz, Grease*
4. Where is your favorite place to be? *By the ocean*
5. What makes you happy? *Being with family*
6. If you could meet anyone living or dead, who would it be? *Jesus*
7. What is the reason you work for MCBMRDD? *The consumers*
8. Describe yourself in five words or less. *Understanding, friendly, loyal, respectful and thoughtful*
9. What is your biggest success in life to this point? *Raising my son*
10. What is something you would really like to do in the future? *Travel A LOT*



**Editor's Note:** The logo last month was hidden in the "B" of the Bev MASCO section. Good Luck this month! The "Just the Facts" section has been removed from this edition and may return next month. If you hear a rumor, let me know and I will try to address it for you and quote the source of the information or at least tell you "I don't know." The Staff Profile of individuals with 20 years of service may be imprecise., if I missed your name, please contact me and I will add your name to a later publication.